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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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Czech and Polish Technicians and Engineers

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Exploitation of uranium

1. "All the uranium mines in Germany (Soviet Zone) are held by the company called Wismut AG, which virtually belongs to the USSR since the controlling shareholders are: the Soviet government and Hauptverwaltung des Sowjetischen Eigentums in Deutschland.
2. "The headquarters of the administration of Wismut AG are located in Siegmars Schonau (near Karl Marx-Stadt).
3. "The most important areas of exploitation of uranium are:
 - Vogtland
 - Erzgebirge
(the training center for these areas is in Aue, training center of upper grade in Auerbach, main base for exploration - in Oberschlema).
 - Thuringer Wald, Frauenwald, Bad Blankenburg, Ilmenau, Schleusingen; training center in Saalfeld).
4. "Although the Soviets hold a complete control over these uranium mines, Germans are in majority among the personnel, and some Germans even hold very important posts in the central administration. Mine workers employed by Wismut AG are very well paid and receive especially nourishing and ample canteen meals. However, apart from some forced labor prisoners, the 'free miners' employed at uranium mines must have a recommendation of the Communist Party of Communist youth organization (Freie Deutsche Jugend) to get the job.
5. "The government of Germany (Soviet Zone) has recently agreed to accept a certain number of Czech and Polish technicians and engineers for 'stage practice' in Wismut AG establishments. The selection of candidates, from the security point of

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view, is now in course. It is, however, characteristic that the Germans have consented to admit the Poles and Czechs only into training centers, sorting plants, etc, and not to the mines proper, allegedly for health reasons. Also, the foreigners will probably be distributed rather in the Erzgebirge area, and not in Thuringer Wald where the exploitation of uranium is especially developed and surrounded with particular secrecy."

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